

Sterner Garrison House
Wells, Maine

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District of Maine

Historic American Buildings Survey
Josiah L. Tibby, District Officer
537 Congress Street, Portland, Maine

"STORER GARRISON HOUSE"

(Old Garrison House)

Wells, York County, Maine

Custodian

Mrs. Ellen Forbes

Date of Erection

1730-1760

Present Condition

Most of the original interior finish has been removed. The chimney has been rebuilt, roof re-covered, house re-clapboarded, sash replaced and front entrance replaced.

Number of Stories

Two

Materials of Construction

The house is said to have been built from the old timbers of the Storer Garrison House. The floors have been replaced, panelling removed, and doors and sash replaced. The interior front stairway is a fine example of ~~early colonial~~ stair design.

Other Existing Records

Collections of the Maine Historical Society, Volume 8, pages 114-116. History of Wells and Kennebunk(Bourne).

Additional Data

It is believed that this structure is known as the Storer Garrison House or the Old Garrison House because of the fact that it is built on the original site of the famous Storer Garrison House of Wells which was erected about 1690, and also because it is supposed to have been constructed of the timbers of the Storer Garrison. The Collections of the Maine Historical Society, Volume 8, pages 114-116, describe the Storer Garrison as a large structure built with a palisade of heavy timbers placed close together, about ten feet from the house and entirely surrounding it. It is not believed that the second story of this garrison projected beyond the lower one as was usually the case in these early garrisons. The house had four turrets built one at each corner of the house and these turrets were used as watch towers. Outside the palisade, Joseph Storer built several small houses for the accommodation of some of the families who came to the garrison in time of danger.

The Storer Garrison was undoubtedly the most important garrison in Wells and in times of danger it is said that people abandoned other garrisons to seek shelter in the Storer Garrison.

A small monument has been placed closed to the present house to mark the site of the battle at the Storer Garrison between the French and Indians and residents of Wells, which took place in 1692.

In 1691, a savage attack was made on the Storer Garrison by Moxus with two hundred Indians. The Indians were defeated but threatened to return and destroy the garrison the following year. Just one year later in 1692, five hundred French and Indians under the French General Labocree appeared before the garrison. Captain Convers in charge of the Storer Garrison had with him, eight soldiers and eight untrained men but at the end of a three days battle, the French general had been killed with a great number of his followers, and finally the disheartened enemy abandoned the siege and fled into the forest.

Eleanor E. Jannell

Approved:

Joseph J. Jolly

Date: 12/18/36

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4/9/57